

Message Text

PAGE 01 NATO 00983 221647Z

51

ACTION EUR-25

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SECDEF WASHDC

INFO USNMR SHAPE

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CINCLANT

CINCUSAFE

AMEMBASSY BONN

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 0983

E.O. 11652: GDS-12/31/80

TAGS: MCAP, NATO

SUBJECT: BASIC ISSUES OF NATO DEFENSE PLANNING: AIRCRAFT SHELTERS

REF: A. USNATO 6110; B. USNATO 0710; C. USNATO 0876; D. STATE 030162

BEGIN SUMMARY: SHAPE TECHNICAL CENTER (STC) HAS AN AIR DEFENSE STUDY UNDERWAY WHICH ANALYZES THE EFFECTS OF PUTTING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES IN AIRCRAFT SHELTERS, GROUND-TO-AIR DEFENSES, ETC. STUDY COULD BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER. MISSION RECOMMENDS INITIATING UK/US STUDY OF SHELTERS IN UK, BUT AWAITING COMPLETION OF STC STUDY BEFORE ADDRESSING PROBLEM OF HIGHER AIRCRAFT SHELTER LEVELS ON THE CONTINENT. WASHINGTON GUIDANCE REQUESTED. END SUMMARY.

1. THIS MESSAGE REPORTS THE RESULTS OF VISIT BY US DEP DEF
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PAGE 02 NATO 00983 221647Z

ADVISOR (B/G BOWMAN) TO SHAPE TECHNICAL CENTER (STC) ON 22 FEB. STC HAS AN AIR BASE DEFENSE STUDY UNDERWAY (OPS/73/1 ACE AIR DEFENCE FOR 1975-1985: AIRBASE DEFENCE) THAT IS DESIGNED TO LOOK AT VARIOUS AIRBASE MODELS AND DETERMINE THE

EFFECTS OF PUTTING ADDITIONAL RESOURCES ON AIRCRAFT SHELTERS, GROUND-TO-AIR DEFENSE, RUNWAY REPAIR, ETC. UNFORTUNATELY, THIS STUDY HAS NOT PROGRESSED BEYOND COLLECTION OF INITIAL DATA AND IS IN SUSPENDED STATUS AS A RESULT OF AWACS STUDY REQUIREMENTS. AIR DEFENSE STUDY COULD BE COMPLETED BY DECEMBER IF IT RECEIVES HIGH PRIORITY FROM SHAPE AFTER COMPLETION OF INITIAL PHASE OF AWACS STUDY.

2. SINCE THE STC STUDY IS EXACTLY THE SORT OF STUDY PROPOSED INFORMALLY BY FRG, UK AND US REPS (REF C.), IT COULD PROVIDE THE ANALYSIS NEEDED BY NATO, IF WE ARE WILLING TO WAIT FOR ITS CONCLUSION IN DECEMBER. TIMING FACTORS FOR ADDITIONAL SHELTER PROGRAMMING ARE AS FOLLOWS:

1974 COMPLETE PLANS FOR COLLOCATED BASES AND
 70 PER CENT SHELTERS FOR M PLUS THREE AIRCRAFT

MAY 1975 INCLUDE FUNDS IN INFRASTRUCTURE SLICE
 XXVII FOR 114 SHELTERS FOR M PLUS 3 AIRCRAFT.

MAY 1976 PROVIDE FUNDS FOR ADDITIONAL SHELTERS IN
 SLICE XXVIII

IN VIEW OF THIS TIMING, MINISTERS COULD MAKE THE DECISION ON THE NEXT INCREMENT OF SHELTERS AS LATE AS SPRING 1975, AND THE STC STUDY COULD EASILY BE READY IN TIME TO SUPPORT THAT DECISION.

3. MISSION RECOMMENDS THE FOLLOWING:

A. UK STUDY OF SHELTERS FOR THE UK PROCEED WITH US PARTICIPATION (CURRENTLY AWAITING COMPLETION OF UK AIR DEFENSE STUDY -- EXPECTED THIS MONTH).

B. US PROPOSE IN THE EWG THAT SHAPE GIVE HIGH PRIORITY TO STC AIR DEFENSE STUDY AFTER COMPLETION OF INITIAL PHASE OF AWACS STUDY AND REPORT TO EWG BY DECEMBER 1974. THE EWG SHOULD CONFIDENTIAL

PAGE 03 NATO 00983 221647Z

STUDY THE TERMS OF REFERENCE OF THE STUDY AND ASK SHAPE TO MAKE ANY NECESSARY ADJUSTMENTS.

4. IF WASHINGTON APPROVES ABOVE APPROACH, FRG/UK/US MEETING OF EXPERTS ON SHELTERS WOULD NO LONGER BE NEEDED, BUT UK/US MEETING SHOULD TAKE PLACE IN EARLY MARCH. REQUEST WASHINGTON GUIDANCE.
RUMSFELD

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